worked out in advance as it depends upon several factors as listed above.

(d) Does not arise in view of reply to (b) and (c) above.

Allotment of Petrol Retail Outlets to SC/ST in North-East

410. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of petrol retail outlets advertised for allotment to SCs/STs in North-east Region during the last three years;

(b) whether these retail outlets have been allotted to SC/ST persons during this period;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the norms laid down by Government for such allotment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (c) During the last three years i.e. 96-97, 97-98 and 98-99 (Apr. '98-Jan. '99), oil companies have advertised 16 retail outlet dealerships for Schedule Tribes in the North-Eastern Region. Selection for these dealerships has not yet been held.

(d) As per existing policy for allotment of dealerships/distributorships, locations included in the approved marketing plans are advertised by the Oil Companies inviting applications from persons meeting the eligibility criteria relating to nationality, age, educational qualifications, residence, income, etc. Selection of eligible candidates is made by the Dealer Selection Boards on merit. Reservation for different social objective categories is provided as under:—

Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes (SC/ST)	- 25%
Physically Handicapped Persons (PH)	- 5%
Paramilitary/Police/Government Personnel (PMP)	- 8%
Defence Personnel (DC)	- 8%
Freedom Fighters (FF)	- 2%
Outstanding Sportspersons (OSP)	- 2%
Open (O)	- 50%

Also, 33% of the dealerships/distributorships in all the categories mentioned above reserved for Women belonging to that category. Other things being equal, Umarried women above 40 years of age without earning parents and Widows are given priority over others.

In the North Eastern Region keeping in view the predominance of ST population, higher percentage of reservation has been provided for 'ST' category in 4 States the details of which are given below:

	ST (Percentage)
Arunachal Pradesh	70
Meghalaya	80
Nagaland	80
Mizoram	90

Network of Kerosene and LPG Supplies in Eastern U.P.

411. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA': Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to increase the network of kerosene oil and LPG supplies in eastern part of U.P.;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether some proposals in this regard are pending for the district Sultanpur and Faizabad in U.P.; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for delays?